



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1403

June 9, 2022

President Joseph R. Biden
The White House
1600 June 13, 2022
Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington D.C. 20500

Dear President Biden,

I am writing to you out of grave concern over the skyrocketing price of gasoline and explain how your administration can reverse course on the radical climate agenda that drove us to this crisis.

This week, gas hit a record-high in my home state of Indiana. This morning, the Indiana statewide average for a gallon of unleaded gasoline was \$5.243 per gallon – that's up nearly five cents from yesterday, almost 50 cents since last Wednesday, more than a dollar higher than last month, and nearly \$2.20 more than the average price last June.

Make no mistake: the gas prices Americans face are a direct result of your own disastrous policies. In September 2019, you looked a voter in the eyes and made a clear and unequivocal promise: *"I want you to look into my eyes. I guarantee you; I guarantee you, we are going to end fossil fuel, and I am not going to cooperate with them."* Regrettably, this is one promise you've tried to keep.

On your very first day in office, you ordered several executive orders and took federal action that set the wheels in motion for the travesty we're experiencing today. Those included orders to revoke numerous Trump-era, pro-American energy rules and actions throughout the executive branch,¹ impose burdensome emissions regulations,² bar drilling on federal lands,³ revoke the

¹ <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2021/01/20/executive-order-protecting-public-health-and-environment-and-restoring-science-to-tackle-climate-crisis/>

² <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2021/01/20/executive-order-protecting-public-health-and-environment-and-restoring-science-to-tackle-climate-crisis/>

³ <https://www.reuters.com/business/energy/biden-administration-pauses-federal-drilling-program-climate-push-2021-01-21/>

Keystone XL pipeline and more. Less than month into your term, Americans were already paying \$0.25 more per gallon.

Despite this, you've only ever since doubled down on efforts to enact and champion Green New Deal-type policies that have crippled American domestic energy production and emboldened America's adversaries, leaving American families to pick up the tab.

Notable actions you've taken include introducing a carbon tax that would be paid by most Americans, making plans forcing Americans to ditch gasoline-powered vehicles, reinstating Obama-era regulations to further regulate coal and oil-fired power plants, halting work on new oil and gas leases and permits on federal land, increasing climate change regulations for new interstate natural gas facilities, and much, much more.⁴

Time and again, you've blamed Vladimir Putin for the rise in gas prices,⁵ but Americans know the truth. Rampant inflation and soaring gas prices took off under your watch,⁶ well before Russia's invasion of Ukraine. In fact, you sought special carve outs for Putin's gas industry AFTER his invasion of Ukraine⁷ – to say nothing of the major boon you gave Putin last year by lifting sanctions on the Nordstream 2 pipeline.⁸

All along the way, I've used my voice in Congress to sound the alarm about the consequences your policies would have on the ability of Americans to afford gas.⁹ I've also outlined and supported plans to restore American independence and make gasoline affordable again. As just one example, I helped introduced a bill¹⁰ earlier this year that would force the White House to develop an energy security strategy, reduce the barriers for American energy producers to increase exports of U.S. Liquid Natural Gas and codify the sanctions on the Nordstream 2 pipeline that never should have been lifted in the first place.

At this rate, without a dramatic reversal in policy from your administration, Americans could very well be paying \$8, \$9, even \$10/gallon gas by the time November rolls around. That cannot be allowed to happen, as bad as that would be for you and Democrats in Congress. Thank you for your attention, and I look forward to hearing back from you as soon as possible.

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https://banks.house.gov/uploadedfiles/energy_final.pdf?fbclid=IwAR3tRYGhtpKt6hN86v9G4lq8scikyUTHg4sRSJnN4XnVjKY7QOB-8lU59M4

⁵ <https://abcnews.go.com/Politics/biden-blames-putins-price-hike-gas-prices-depend/story?id=84034646>

⁶ https://banks.house.gov/uploadedfiles/final_demflation_memo.pdf

⁷ <https://apnews.com/article/russia-ukraine-vladimir-putin-joe-biden-business-united-states-53a2fae4a7985b2b703824b012f7c34e>

⁸ <https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/national-security/bidens-push-sanctions-russias-pipeline-puts-democrats-bind-rcna7263>

⁹ https://banks.house.gov/uploadedfiles/final_demflation_memo.pdf

¹⁰ <https://pfluger.house.gov/news/documentsingle.aspx?DocumentID=357>

Sincerely,



Jim Banks
Member of Congress